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25X1A9a Colonel L.K. White, Chief, FBIB-CIA

September 20, 1948

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Broadcasts from Pyongyang

Excepting for sporadic bits of information from G-2 sources, this office is almost completely dependent upon the FBIB for current information concerning North Korea. Our contacts with other offices confirm the unique importance of the FBIB's daily reports in this respect.

However, there is one handicap in the Korean section of the bulletin that seriously limits its use. Korean proper names are frequently received in garbled form, often unidentifiable, or requiring time-consuming and laborious efforts to identify them. Frequently such erroneous names can be identified only by checking sources which are not available in Washington at the present time.

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25X1A9a This problem has been discussed at some length [redacted] of this office and a member of your staff, [redacted]. As a result of these discussions, [redacted] has prepared the enclosed list of prominent North Koreans (romanized in the McCune-Reischauer system) with Korean characters and official positions. It is hoped that copies of this list may be made available to FBIB monitors as well as to your Washington staff, and that it will prove useful in checking Korean names at the time they are first heard on the air. Additional names will be made available as our information increases.

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We are informed that G-2, 24th Corps, Seoul, has been forwarding North Korean periodicals and newspapers to [redacted] in order that the North Korean jargon and proper names, when broadcasted from Pyongyang, may be more intelligible to the monitors. Systematic use of such published information may obviate much of the difficulties that now exist. However, it would be most helpful if names and official positions of North Korean personalities, when obtained from such sources, could be transmitted to this Division for use in expanding the enclosed "directory", and correctly identifying Korean names which appear in FBIB reports for the first time. For this purpose, it would be necessary to include not only the correct romanization of each name according to the McCune-Reischauer system but also the characters and the current position if known.

This office will be glad to cooperate with you in resolving the above difficulties in any manner possible.

Enclosure:

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3 copies of a list of prominent North Koreans.

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